

# **National Model United Nations**

## **Week A**

**March 17 – March 21, 2013**



**Committee on the Exercise of the  
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian  
People**

**Documentation**

# Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

## Committee Staff

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## Agenda

1. The Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Particularly in and around East Jerusalem
2. The Reconciliation of Stateless Palestinian Refugees in Neighboring Countries
3. Supporting Palestinian Women as Political Leaders

## Resolutions adopted by the committee

<b>Document Code</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Vote (Y/ N/ Abstention/ Non-Voting)</b>
CEIRPP/1/1	Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Settlement Activities	Adopted by Acclamation
CEIRPP/1/2	Healthcare in the Occupied Territories	17-0-1
CEIRPP/1/3	Promoting Palestinian Civil Society	Adopted by Acclamation
CEIRPP/1/4	Improving Economic Autonomy	Adopted by Acclamation
CEIRPP/1/5	The Economic Blockade	Adopted by Acclamation
CEIRPP/1/6	Enhanced Involvement of the International Community in the Peace Process	17-0-1

CEIRPP/1/7	Trade Obstacles for Palestinians in the West Bank	16-0-1
CEIRPP/1/8	Knowledge and Technology	16-0-1
CEIRPP/1/9	Reformation of the Palestinian Legal Framework	16-1-0
CEIRPP/1/10	Water Access and Management	Adopted by Acclamation

## Summary Report

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Supporting Palestinian Women as Political Leaders;
- II. Reconciliation of Stateless Palestinian Refugees in Neighboring Countries; and
- III. Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Particularly in and around East Jerusalem.

The session was attended by 18 Member States and 17 observer States.

The committee heard some introductory speeches concerning the adoption of the agenda before it was adopted in the order of III, II, I; i.e., to consider the Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Particularly in and around East Jerusalem as the first item on the agenda. Some more speeches were heard before the delegates suspended the meeting to begin to discuss ideas.

The Committee soon demonstrated that it was intending to consider a broad range of issues relating to the Occupied Territories, with the first set of working papers addressing topics such as education, healthcare, water, civil society, economic autonomy and infrastructure. As the meeting progressed, further themes were developed as working papers, including ones on reforming the Palestinian legal and tax system, technology and information exchange, freedom of movement and the wider international context of the peace process.

The Committee was extremely cooperative in spirit and delegations were very communicative, updating the body on their progress and ideas in their speeches, and all delegations were involved in at least a few different sections of the report.

As the Committee moved into voting procedure, it continued to demonstrate its cooperative and consensus-oriented nature by considering 10 draft report segments without a single unfriendly amendment. Five sections were adopted by acclamation, and the other five were passed by a majority vote. The final report that the Committee has produced covers a broad range of topics and includes many bold ideas, ranging from emergency medical travel documents, to lower infant and maternal mortality rates in the occupied territories, to a proposal to solve the regions energy problems by damming the river Jordan. This wide cross-section of themes further highlighted the depth and breadth of the discussions during deliberations.

The Committee adjourned this annual meeting without further considering other topics on the agenda.

Code: CEIRPP/1/1

Committee: Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Subject: The Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Particularly in and around East Jerusalem.

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES**

1. The status of Jerusalem remains the main impediment to the peace process, due to the irreconcilable claims of both sides. As of November 2012, as indicated in resolution A/RES/67/19, 138 United Nations Member States recognize East Jerusalem as part of the State of Palestine. However, the Israeli government issues mandatory permits to the Palestinians to allow access to the holy sites located in East Jerusalem.
2. After the adoption of A/RES/67/19, the Israeli government announced the planning and building of 3,000 new settlements or housing units in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), as well as the acceleration of 6,500 settlement units already approved. Some of these settlements' designated locations are within historically Arab sections of Jerusalem, specifically the E-1 and southern neighborhoods that are historically relevant to the Arab Jerusalemites. This renewed activity is not only threatening the development of the Palestinian state, but also further delaying the Middle East peace process. Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 446 (1979), all Israeli settlement activity in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip was declared illegal. According to Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949), "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies."
3. The water infrastructure in Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem is lacking in comparison to Jewish-settled areas. According to the cooperation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene in the occupied Palestinian territories (EWASH), sewage water that flows in openly streams through Arab neighborhoods endangers the environment as well as the health of the Palestinian population in East Jerusalem.
4. The United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT), is the UN agency that works within all spheres of government, civil society, and the private sector to help build, manage, plan and finance sustainable urbanization around the world. Official Palestinian reports have indicated by 2018, around 470,000 new homes will be needed in the West Bank and Gaza, and that currently 75% of the population is without affordable housing.
5. Palestinians in the oPt face numerous challenges, particularly under the Israeli administration of Jerusalem after its annexation in 1967. Through the revocation of residency rights, demolition of housing and denial of building permits, Palestinians Jerusalemites are largely left with no choice other than building illegal housing or have no chance at homeownership. According to UNRWA records, the Israeli Interior Ministry revoked the residency of 4,577

East Jerusalemites in 2008, a figure that is 21 times the average of the previous 40 years. Previous data show that between 1967 and 2003, 90,000 housing units were built in East Jerusalem settlements for Jews, most of which were constructed with government subsidies. None were built for Palestinians with public funding. Despite a shortage of 25,000 housing units in the Palestinian areas, the Jerusalem Municipality grants just 50 to 100 building permits per year for Palestinian housing. Thus, Palestinians have limited access to land and permits for construction, even though they constitute over 60% of the population in this municipality. The Israeli discriminatory policies of demolitions in the East Jerusalem, particularly by constantly denying access to legal building permits, is directed towards Arab Jerusalemites, while the Jewish neighborhoods are given greater opportunities for expansion. These actions are prohibited under international law, as articulated in Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and codified in the major human rights treaties that Israel has ratified, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

## **B. HEALTHCARE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**

6. According to the Article 55 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the State of Israel, as an occupying power, must “provide the population with food and medical products; Israel is required to import foods, medical products, and any other necessary means when the resources of the occupied territory are insufficient.”
7. Furthermore, access to healthcare is a fundamental human right as defined by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. In 2011, 175,228 Palestinian patients applied for permits for healthcare access into areas under Israeli civilian or military control. Of these, 32,678 patients were refused permits, or 20% of those needing care were denied their right. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health, “10 percent of pregnant Palestinian women were forced to endure labor or childbirth at a checkpoint between 2000 and 2007, resulting in the death of at least 35 babies and five women during the seven year period.” Palestinian medical emergencies are exacerbated by the high number of Israeli checkpoints, which the 2012 World Report says number “more than 520.” Therefore, there is no lack of healthcare resources, staff, or facilities in Israel and Palestine, but a lack of universal access.
8. Since the construction of the security barrier around East Jerusalem, Palestinians have been restricted in their mobility within the occupied Palestinian territories. As a result, the security barrier has hindered timely emergency care for the Palestinian people who cannot be treated in hospitals located in Palestinian-controlled territories due to a need for complex medical treatment. Between 2000 and 2006, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society accounted for 112 deaths and 35 stillbirths as a result of preventing medical personnel and patients from crossing checkpoints. According to a May 2008 report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Palestinians were delayed an hour and a half on average at checkpoints outside the city Nablus during rush hour.
9. In 2000, the United Nations committed to eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eradicate poverty by 2015. One such goal is the elimination of hunger and malnutrition. Furthermore, the “inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition” was affirmed by

the *Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition*, and by A/RES/50/109 of the World Food Summit. A 2011 public health study showed that 55% of boys and 64% of girls in Palestine had significantly insufficient energy intakes, and that 10% suffer from chronic malnourishment. The Child Nutrition Center said the situation in Gaza is much worse, with 32% of children suffering from second-degree malnourishment, and 16% suffering from third-degree malnourishment. As a result, many Palestinian children face stunted growth, hindrances to physiological development, and they are more liable for infection and disease.

10. In addition, two of the MDGs are to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health. There is a wide gap between infant mortality rates in Palestine in comparison to Israel. A 2008 study by the World Health Organization stated that the maternal mortality rate in Palestine was 46 per 100,000 live births; whereas, the maternal mortality rate in Israel was six per 100,000 live births. This is nearly a difference of eight times.

### **C. PROMOTING PALESTINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY**

11. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has recognized that the temporary detention of Palestinians by Israeli security forces has become common practice in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem. Among others, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Richard Falk, has described the extent to which arbitrary detention is applied in his report to the Human Rights Council A/HRC/20/32 (2012). The non-governmental-organization, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association (Addameer), which is based in East Jerusalem, keeps statistics on the detention of Palestinian prisoners including children, publishes the cases of Palestinian political prisoners and provides legal assistance to them. Addameer has built expertise in this area since its founding in 1992. Not only adults, but also minors are subject to detention by Israeli security forces. According to Addameer, in 2010 only 240 out of 1200 minor detainees from East Jerusalem were charged. All others were arrested and set free after a short period of detention ranging from a few hours to a few days.
12. The Committee recalls the implementation of the Nansen Passport in 1921 by the League of Nations. This document was the first international travel document and was delivered by more than 52 countries to address the issue of the 800,000 Russian refugees who became stateless after the Russian Revolution. This document has proven in the past its efficiency in providing Stateless people with a temporary international citizenship, which allowed them to travel between different countries, and to grant them access to the judicial system, health care or employment in their hosting countries, which are considered fundamental Human Rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.
13. We also notice that the Article 28 of the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees strongly recommends the implementation of this kind of “Travel Documents” to help refugees. Nevertheless, our committee is aware that the article 1-D of the above-mentioned Convention is excluding Palestinian Refugees from its mandate, so that this kind of document is not implemented yet in the Palestinian case.

14. Furthermore, the Committee is aware of the reluctance of certain states to consider Palestine as a State and its people as Palestinian citizens, seeing the voting results in the A/RES/67/19 upgrading Palestine to an Observer non-Member State status in the GA. Plus, it has recognized the relevance of the scientific study of Jalal al Hussein "Le statut des réfugiés palestiniens au Proche Orient" (the status of the Palestinians refugees in the Near East), 2012 and the study of Susan M. Akram "Palestinian refugees and their legal status: rights, politics, and implications for a just solution" both assessing that the access to citizenship of Palestinian People outside the occupied Palestinian territories is compromised by the will of neighboring countries to preserve their demographic, political and confessional balance.
15. Because of the Article 13 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of December 1948 establishing that "everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country" has also been ratified by Israel, this Committee stresses the importance to implement these international documents to fulfill the right to freedom of movement.
16. The Committee considers that the right of Palestinian to return to their homeland must not be compromised, as stated in the study of the CEIRPP of November 1, 1978 called, *The Right of Return of the Palestinian People*.
17. Many people around the world are not aware of the security and humanitarian situation of Palestinian men, women and children. There are at least two generations that have not known a world without an Arab-Israeli conflict and its consequences, and therefore, may also be less aware of possible solutions to it. The Committee therefore considers international awareness as a key factor in improving the situation in the oPt. Furthermore, the mandate of the Committee includes mobilizing solidarity with the Palestinian people as enshrined, *inter alia*, in General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/14. The Committee has also noticed the positive influence that the appointment of a Goodwill Ambassador has had for the causes of the United Nations Children's Fund, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, or the Food and Agricultural Organization among others. Additionally, in order to live up to its mandate, the Committee has to take into account the immense developments in communications technology that the world has seen in the past decades.
18. Following the principles expressed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) especially in Article 5, which asserts that "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures: (a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women." The Committee highlights in this respect the situation regarding violations of Palestinian women's rights caused in part by the ongoing Israeli occupation. Palestinian women have been and are continuously targets of violence including rape, harassment, lapidating, and sexual and physical abuse. Women are sometimes viewed as inferior beings to men, which enables their marginalization and oppression in society, drastically diminishing gender equality. There are several NGOs as the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC) and the Jerusalem Center for Women (JCW) that, by providing safe houses and shelters to



Palestinian in the occupied territories, work to promote positive women's roles in society. The Committee believes that this is a structure that can be built forth.

#### **D. IMPROVING ECONOMIC AUTONOMY**

19. This Committee commends the international community for its continuing financial contributions to organizations seeking to improve the quality of life of Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories, as stated in the CEIRPP Draft Programme of Work for 2013. However, it also recognizes that perpetual dependence on donor good will and programmes is not a sustainable solution for Palestine or the optimal situation for its economy. For example, according to information submitted to the General Assembly during November 8, 2010 session, 80% of the Gaza Strip population is dependent on food assistance from the United Nations. Therefore, the Committee considers that the most effective strategies are those that favor current initiatives which, though they rely on donor contributions in the short-term, have as their ultimate long-term goal to increase Palestinian economic autonomy.

- a. Moreover, the Committee recalls the conclusions of General Assembly Resolution A/RES/52/194 and A/53/223 on the positive role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty and economic development.
- b. The Committee has examined with attention the scientific study "Overview of impact and potential of microfinance in Palestine" conducted by Luc Roullet of the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), which concludes that Palestine is currently on the "expansion phase" of Microfinance Institution (MFI) development. This study has also shown that a greater collaboration between existing MFIs should improve the quality of these activities and contribute to their expansion.
- c. The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has a mandate to provide assistance, protection and advocacy for millions of Palestine refugees. UNRWA has an Office of the Microfinance and Microenterprise Programme in Jerusalem, for instance in 2011 the UNRWA Report on Microfinance concluded that there is a potential market of 200,000 clients for microcredit loans in the Palestinian territories.

#### **E. TAX AND CUSTOMS**

20. On May 4, 1994, Israel and the Palestinian Authority signed the Protocol on Economic Relations, the "Paris Protocol" as an annex to the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. This was later incorporated and superseded by the "Oslo II" accords, formally known as the "Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip" of September 24 to 28, 1995. According to this agreement, Israel collects taxes and customs from Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and has to transfer that amount to the Palestinian side. These sums up to an average of \$100 million per month, which comprises two-thirds of the Palestinian Authority's domestic revenue.

21. Israel has repeatedly withheld the transfer of the collected funds for different reasons including to pay outstanding debts of the Palestinian Authority or in response to Palestinian politics.
22. The Palestinian Authority employs over 150,000 people. Withheld funds have made it more difficult for the Palestinian Authority to pay these salaries, causing growing restiveness and strikes.
23. Examples for occurrences of withheld tax revenues include but are not limited to: early 2001 in response to ongoing violence; in 2006 in response to the election of Hamas; in June 2008 in response to critiques expressed by the Palestinian National Authority's Prime Minister Salam Fayyad; in October 2011 in response to Palestine's bid for full membership within the UN and admission to UNESCO; and most recently, in December 2012 in response to Palestine's upgraded status in the United Nations as a non-member observer state.
24. Unpredictability and frequency of withholding tax revenue deprives the Palestinian Authority of budget planning possibilities and fiscal policy tools sufficient to manage and stimulate the economy. Lack of medium-term planning capabilities forces the Palestinian Authority to rely on short-term liquidity management. The Palestinian Authority also faces inflating interest rates as the irregularity of salary payments inhibit banks from lending to the public sector and choke aggregate demand. Ultimately Palestinian Authority's fiscal position inherently depends on Israeli action.

## **F. THE ECONOMIC BLOCKADE**

25. The blockade that Israel, with the cooperation of Egypt, has imposed on Palestine since 2007 has varied in intensity over time according to the evolution of relations between Israel and Palestinian political leaders in Gaza; this evolution has been described in the June 2010 report *Israel's Blockade of Gaza* of the Congressional Research Service. Israel disengaged militarily from the Gaza Strip in 2005 but has continued to control all of its borders. There were plans to conclude agreements on increased trade at this time, but these projects were abandoned after Hamas won the legislative elections in 2006. Hamas briefly formed a unitary government with Fatah, but then broke with them in taking over control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. In response, Israel implemented a tight land, air and sea blockade on the Gaza Strip, and carried out an offensive called Operation Cast Lead against Hamas between December 2008 and January 2009. Following this operation, Israel further tightened restrictions on the movement of people and goods.
26. Israel frames these policies in a discourse of self-defense, maintaining that many materials ordinarily used for rebuilding projects can potentially be used for military offensive purposes by Hamas. It therefore bans many kinds of ordinarily basic goods from being imported or delivered into Gaza. According to a 2012 report by the UN Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory, Israel implements several strategies to enforce the blockade. It has established a fishing limit for Gazan boats — defined by nautical mile boundaries from the coast — and requires all humanitarian aid supplies shipments to stop in the port of Ashdod for inspection before entering these waters for delivery to Gaza. It has built a fence around

the entire perimeter of the boundary between Israel and Gaza; trucks bringing imports to Gaza must past through inspection checkpoints and are limited in number. Egypt enforces the blockade along the Egyptian-Palestinian border, only periodically opening the Rafah border crossing which it sealed in 2007. Tunnels that are dug under the borders to smuggle in goods are often bombed by Israeli aircraft, but have not succeeded in eradicating illicit trade. This smuggling activity, while increasing the amount of goods available in the Gaza Strip, also results in economic market distortions and contributes to price inflation.

27. The blockade has severe consequences in terms of economic activity and access to vital services. The Palestinian Ministry of National Economy estimated in 2011 that the blockade had led to costs or unrealized growth worth \$1.9 billion in 2010. According to the WHO, Gaza has run out of 42% of essential medicines. Of the 1.5 million people living in the Gaza Strip, 25.6% were unemployed in 2011 according to information published in February 2012 by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Research conducted by Amnesty International found that elevated food prices leave 4 out of 5 Gazans dependent on international humanitarian aid. *The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Gaza's Report Survey* defines abject poverty in the Gaza Strip according to the monetary value needed to acquire the average amount of calorie intake (2,423 calories) for one day; in 2011 it equated abject poverty in the Gaza Strip to living on less than \$6.1 per day, meaning that those families are unable to meet even their most basic food needs. A 2010 UNRWA study quoted in the May 2010 UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs found that the number of refugees living in abject poverty in the Gaza Strip tripled after the implementation of the blockade in 2007 until 2010, rising from 100,000 to about 300,000. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA) has repeatedly called the Israeli Gaza blockade policy a form of “collective punishment”, as in its recent statement on 13 June 2012.
28. The Committee recognizes the important progress that was made when Israel and Egypt relaxed restrictions in December 2012 on much-needed goods — such as construction materials — following the signing of a cease-fire with Hamas after the October 2012 hostilities. Palestinian farmers have also been given more freedom of access to agricultural fields beyond the fence, and fisherman are now allowed to go twice as far from the coast as was permitted before the ceasefire (back to the limit that had been set in October 2006).
29. However, the blockade still presents daunting challenges to the normalization of trade and economic activity in the Gaza Strip. Particularly, the ban on exports from Gaza to Israel and to Palestinians in the West Bank remains and is the most damaging restriction because it prohibits exports to Gaza's two main trading partners. The resulting severe structural trading deficit exacerbates the disadvantaged economic position of Palestine in the international market and perpetuates chronic debt and dependence on foreign aid. Furthermore, although more food imports have been allowed into Gaza since the relaxation of restrictions, continuing high prices still make them inaccessible for the unemployed, which makes up roughly a quarter of the workforce. This Committee can make several recommendations to the General Assembly to encourage further relaxations of the blockade, with the long-term goal of achieving its complete dismantlement. It considers the comprehensive end of the blockade a necessary prerequisite to a future settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Not only is it the source of continuing tension, distrust, even animosity, between the two sides,

but it is inconsistent with the principle of a future Palestinian state with full sovereignty over its territory and economy.

30. Two international bodies have mandates suited to the task of aiding in the dismantlement of the blockade through economic mediation. First, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works at the country level to make knowledge, experience and resources available to disadvantaged countries, particularly in working to achieve the *Millennium Development Goals*. The UNDP has a Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People that has operated since 1978. Furthermore, Israel joined the Executive Board of the UNDP in February 2012. Second, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) works to stimulate economic progress and world trade. This body originated in 1948 as the Organization for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) to administer the Marshall Program for the economic reconstruction of Europe after World War II. The organization was reformed to take its current form in 1961, opening its membership to non-European states; however, most OECD members are developed, high-income economies with the resources to fund economic programs. The OECD has already implemented some projects in Palestine; Israel became a member of this organization in 2010.
31. The most recent session of the General Assembly (GA) has ushered in significant new developments in the considerations of a two-state solution to the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. With the adoption of resolution A/RES/67/19, recognizing Palestine as an observer *state*, the GA recognizes its right to sovereignty and self-determination and accession to fulfilling its complete role as a nation-state on the international stage. Given this new development, the whole of the process necessitated for Palestine's stability as a state, continuing forwards into the future, requires the establishment of proper infrastructure, systems, bureaucracy, programs, and technology, so as to ensure the ability of the state to provide for the basic human rights declared in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
32. A factor in ongoing tensions and conflict between the Israeli state and PLO is the harassment and impeding of Palestinians moving between the Gaza strip and West Bank. Essential to the negotiation of a two-state solution is the mitigation of conflict between the two states due in part to the movement of peoples between these territories.

## **G. ENHANCED INVOLVEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE PEACE PROCESS**

33. With the beginning of the new millennium, the international community created a moment of optimism in solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by following a clear agenda aiming towards a two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders. Referring to the Oslo Accords and the Fourth Geneva Convention, the main points are stopping all the violence from both sides as well as establishing the basis for the start of a direct dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians which would include the Arab countries according to the Madrid Conference. Moreover, the recognition of the new status of Palestine as a non-member

observer to the United Nations by General Assembly resolution A/RES/67/17 might accelerate the negotiation process.

34. The Committee acknowledges its awareness about the deadlock situation that the peace process is facing. It is difficult for Palestine to enter into negotiations while Israel continues the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, whereas Israel considers the settlements an expression of their sovereignty. In March 2013, the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/738) reaffirmed the urgent need to resume negotiations between parties for a peaceful long-term solution.

## **H. TRADE OBSTACLES FOR PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK**

35. In addition to the political oppression of Palestinians by the State of Israel, we are also witnessing economic marginalization of the Palestinians that is mainly a result of various trade obstacles. According to the UN Statistic Division, Palestinian GDP per capita is only 1/16 of Israel's GDP per capita.
36. Palestine has no opportunity to trade without Israel's consent, meaning that Palestinian businesspeople are fully exposed to arbitrary decisions of the Israeli administration. This is due to the fact that the current status of Palestine complicates direct access to outside countries, as a result of the partition of the oPt into Zones A, B, And C established with the Oslo Agreements in 1994. Therefore, Palestinians are obligated to adapt to Israeli law in order to trade. Although the peace treaties between the Palestinian Authority and Israel establish a system of cooperation on economic issues as defined in the Paris Protocol of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement in 1994, the Israeli administration hinders trade in a number of ways, including measures such as not translating relevant documents into Arabic. This is clear discrimination against Palestinian business people.
37. The Palestinian economy furthermore lacks basic products for construction, industrial production and the development of services as Israel is denying or heavily restricting the import of several goods. One example of this is Israel's practice of denying Palestinians their agreed import levels of motors.
38. Furthermore, the international community is witnessing a process of annexation as part of the extension of the settlements. This extension is especially restrictive on the amount of agricultural land that can be used by Palestinians. As of 2010, private land ownership in the West Bank is only at 4.7%.
39. The lack of water caused by Israel's water policy, that privileges the settlements and discriminates Palestinian neighborhoods in terms of the amount of water and the maintenance of the infrastructure, hinders intra-Palestinian trade as the fruits and vegetables that once were part of Palestinian agricultural heritage can no longer be cultivated.
40. For the Government of Israel the restriction on Palestinian trade are necessary for their safety. Israel maintains that restricting the access of people, capital and resources reduces the chances of a violent revolution, but the continuation of the occupation and the economic

marginalization do not foster a safe environment for Palestinians. A recent report by the International Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) on “Israeli Settlements in the oPt” for the Human Rights Council (2012) has suggested that there is a growing settlement building industry in the West Bank.

## **I. KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY**

41. The most recent session of the General Assembly has ushered in significant new developments in the considerations of a two-state solution to the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. With the adoption of resolution A/RES/67/19, recognizing Palestine as an observer state, the General Assembly is recognizing its right to sovereignty, self-determination, and accession to fulfilling its complete role as a state on the international stage. Given this new development, the whole of the process necessitated for Palestine’s stability as a state, continuing forwards into the future, requires the establishment of proper infrastructure, systems, bureaucracy, programs, and technology, so as to ensure the ability of the state to provide for the basic human rights declared in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR).
42. Specifically with regards to the necessity of establishing and improving technology as applied throughout sectors of private and public life, and the economy, functions vital to a development of the region and the establishment of a permanent/continuing peace in the region, are in the areas of agriculture, information and communications technology, and energy.
43. Agriculture sector in Gaza has a significant role within the local society as it allows much of the area to subsist independently, and domestic agriculture supplies food products to the majority of the local population. Moreover, the contribution to the economy of their area is noteworthy as an earner of foreign exchange, with agriculture accounting for approximately 10% of Gaza’s GDP, and 20% of the employed labor force in Gaza working in agriculture. The Gaza Strip has attracted more unemployed people from Israel and other regions than any other area.
44. In an attempt to serve the foreign markets, farmers have adopted agricultural techniques and practices not necessarily suited to the area. There has also, recently, been an introduction of greenhouses for agriculture and horticulture in the northern part of the Gaza Strip. Despite this, food security has become one of the most pressing issues of the Palestinian people. Although the UN food program has grown to support a greater number of families in the oPt the number of families in need of food support has also increased. This is despite the determination that nearly half of the total area of Gaza is cultivable land; agricultural expansion has still reached its limit in this area due to exploitation of land and increasing rates of industrial growth. Additionally, only 61% of cultivable land is able to be irrigated.

## **J. REFORMATION OF PALESTINIAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

45. The current framework of Palestinian law has many inconsistencies. The Palestinian judicial system is complicated due to different tiers of historical legal systems which have been applied in its territory. These include customary law (Urf), Ottoman law, sharia law, British common law, Jordanian and Israeli laws and most recently, the Palestine Authority Basic Law. This complexity does not allow the Palestinian legal system to function properly since its inherent juridical ambiguity interferes with the predictability of Palestinian law which is an essential element of the modern concept of the rule of law. In fact, this simultaneous application of multiple systems does not allow Palestinian law to be in congruence with its constitution and does not prove efficient for the peoples subject to its application.
46. Customary law and sharia law have been in use in Palestine for over a thousand years. The application and development of these two legal systems are complimentary. Sharia law provides that whenever Islamic jurisprudence does not mandate a clear solution, customary law must be applied in order to solve a conflict. The Ottoman legal system constituted the official law of Palestine from the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. After the First World War, Palestine became a Mandate territory of the United Kingdom, making British common law the principle source of law until the partition of Palestine in 1948. With the outcome of the first Arab-Israeli War, the laws of Jordan became the law of the West Bank while Egyptian law became the law of the Gaza Strip, as these two states were conferred political control over these two territories. However, in 1967 Israel began its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza strip and applied its legal system over the oPt. Finally, the outcome of the Oslo Agreements in 1997 provided the Palestinian Authority with jurisdiction over limited legislative subjects and territory. After the establishment of the Zones, the Palestinian Authority was charged with civil administration of Zones A and B which covers 37% of the West Bank and 96% of the Palestinian population. Israel maintained control over the civil administration of Area C, which presides over the remainder. However, the Palestinian Authority control over security was given uniquely to Zone A, which covers 18% of the West Bank and 55% of the Palestinian population. Thus, Israel is in charge of security over Zones B and C, which cover the remaining territory and population.
47. The complexity of the current Palestinian legal system stems from uncertainty over which of these legal systems predominates. Certitude over this is important, since it determines the degree of applicability of the different legal systems. Palestinians jurists have divergent views on this matter and there is no consensus in this regard. This uncertainty can be partially explained by the fact that the Palestinian Authority legal powers were intended to be transitional in nature as suggested by the framework provided by the Oslo Agreements previously mentioned.
48. Following the Oslo Agreements, the World Bank conducted a program of judicial training and review of the Palestinian legal system. In 2004, the World Bank conducted a study to review the progress accomplished so far. It concluded that progress had been limited. Court administration proved highly unsatisfactory due to lack of communication between the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Court of Justice. Regarding legal unification, the study concluded that the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) passed limited laws in order to amend its legal system. Judicial training also yielded unsatisfactory results since the security

environment obstructed the continuation of the program. Finally, Courthouse construction program was never initiated.

## **K. WATER ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT**

49. According to Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family,” under which access to water is a basic human right. Under the Millennium Development Goal 7, one of the targets is to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
50. Since the beginning of the occupation, Israel has control of the water resources over Palestine. The per capita water consumption in Israeli towns is three and a half times higher than in the Palestinian towns in the West Bank. This disparity is one of the roots of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as Palestine’s access to water is endangered. The World Health Organization and the United States Agency for International Development recommends 100 liters of water per capita per day as the minimum quantity for basic consumptions, but the capita daily consumption was 37 liters in the Tubas area in the northeast of the oPt.
51. Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine are sharing the water of the Jordan River with the source in Lebanon. As the West Bank and particularly the region of East Jerusalem is agglomerated, in that the draw water from primarily the same region of the Jordan River, and are considered as one region for the purpose of distribution of both water and energy, as applies here.
52. This Committee recognizes the need for sustainable energy and power as well as equitable distribution of water from the Jordan River in the region consisting of the states of Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. For the stability of any region, there is the necessity of a sustainable source of both essential resources for sustaining of life, such as access to water and energy. For the establishment of the Palestinian state, it is necessary to establish such.

## **II. Mandate**

53. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established through General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975. The Committee was mandated to consider and recommend to the General Assembly a programme of implementation, designed to enable the Palestinian People to exercise their inalienable rights, and to take into account, in the formulation of its recommendations for the implementation of that programme, all the powers conferred by the Charter upon the principal organs of the United Nations.
54. In 2012, the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/20, which requested that the committee continue to exert all efforts to promote the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination, to support the Middle East peace process for the achievement of the two – State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and the just resolution of all final status issues, and to mobilize international support



for and assistance to the Palestinian people. The resolution further requested the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General, as appropriate. The Committee may further continue to extend its cooperation and support to Palestinian and other civil society organizations and to continue to involve additional civil society organizations and parliamentarians in its work in order to mobilize international solidarity and support for the Palestinian people, with the overall aim of promoting the achievement by the Palestinian people of its inalienable rights and a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine.

### **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

#### **A. INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING, URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES**

55. The Committee recommends the General Assembly and the Security Council to continue calling for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) and reiterates the importance of the re-establishment of definite borders within the framework of Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967. The Committee emphasizes the importance of mutually agreed upon borders by Palestine and Israel to assure the resolution of the conflict.
56. The Committee further reinforces all previous United Nations actions and statements which encourage equal and free access to the holy sites in order to achieve and maintain peace, security, transparency and tolerance in Jerusalem. The General Assembly should continue to advocate the creation of an entity which would guarantee such equal and free access by working with grassroots groups and religious institutions in the management of the holy site.
57. The Committee further emphasizes that part and parcel of this equal and free access to the holy sites is the recognition of the 1967 borders between Israel and Palestine. As such, we encourage the General Assembly to continue discussion on Palestinian mobility within the oPt.
58. The Committee suggests the General Assembly to reaffirm the condemnation of illegal Israeli settlement activities in the oPt and to reiterate that such projects be permanently frozen. The Committee notes that negotiations on reparations, as well as the implementation of measures to deter continued settlement development, are a vital part of the peace process. Negotiations about reparations and land swaps must involve mutually recognized borders. The specific land that is to be exchanged shall be decided upon by the two parties involved to ensure stability and cooperation.
59. In order to improve access to proper wastewater management of those Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, the Committee recommends the General Assembly to promote the following actions:

- a. Cooperation between the United Nations agencies and NGOs in the oPt to provide provisional waste water infrastructure to those Palestinians households that do not have access to the waste water system of the Jerusalem Municipality.
  - b. A recommitment of the United Nations Settlement Fund Special Human Settlements program for the Palestinian People in order to offer assistance to the Jerusalem municipality with technical expertise to tackle urban planning challenges, such as the densification of Jewish and Arab neighborhoods.
  - c. Further engagement with the State of Palestine in the areas of affordable housing and home ownership in the oPt, recognizing previous efforts by the State of Palestine.
60. The Committee further recommends the General Assembly to discuss the application of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), with particular focus on infrastructure and mobility within the oPt. The Committee applauds efforts in the oPt by NGOs to assist Arab Jerusalemites with the municipality's legal framework for issuing permits.
61. The Committee further recommends that the General Assembly extend the mandate of the CEIRPP for a period of one year.

## **B. HEALTHCARE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**

62. It is imperative to grant access to Palestinians needing urgent or immediate medical treatment on the basis that they cannot receive the same level of quality healthcare from a hospital under Palestinian jurisdiction rather than one under Israeli jurisdiction. One way to compare quality of healthcare in Palestine in comparison to Israel is to observe infant mortality rates; the infant mortality rate in Palestinian Occupied Territory is 25 per 1000, but in Israel it is only four per 1000. It is the recommendation of the Committee that the General Assembly shall continue to work with both parties to cooperate in situations of life-threatening medical emergencies at military checkpoints for both Palestinian and Israeli citizens. It is the opinion of the Committee that emergency travel documents issued solely for the purposes of medical treatment shall facilitate the transit of Palestinians from their domiciles to hospitals located in Israeli- and Palestinian-controlled areas of the occupied Palestinian territories.
63. The Committee further recommends that the General Assembly encourage the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to continue their efforts to provide food for the 8,000 severely malnourished children in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, the General Assembly must encourage these efforts to be expanded to include the thousands suffering in the oPt, particularly East Jerusalem. These initiatives that sponsor childhood nourishment can be implemented as free school lunch programmes, which will increase the nutritional intake of Palestinian children as well as motivating more Palestinian children to participate in the education system. Funding for this programme should be provided by NGOs working in the region.

64. In addition, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly encourage Israel to adhere to international law under Article 3 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which states that “everyone has the right to life.” In order to provide universal access to healthcare for Palestinian citizens, we recommend that the General Assembly endorse the following policies:

- a. A system proposed by the Israeli government which allows tax havens and economic advantages for international firms moving to specific areas in Palestine, as defined by the Palestinian Authority, in exchange for commitment to a hire quota of 75% Palestinian workers and full healthcare benefits for all the workers and their families. While this may intensify the issue of settlements by encouraging Israeli firms to incorporate in Palestine, the location of firm incorporation will be limited to the areas defined by the Palestinians Authority. The ultimate aim of this action is to improve the business relations between Palestinians and Israelis to alleviate the conflict in the occupied territories. Also, the Arab League states which traditionally boycott Israeli goods will be less inclined to take action because Israeli goods will be produced in cooperation with Palestinians. This business cooperation system will foster Israeli economic growth by offering Israeli firms tax free incorporation and a cheaper workforce as well as increase the welfare of the Palestinian people by granting them a better access to care.
- b. An improvement in the accessibility to healthcare in occupied areas through the establishment of small, local, and affordable medical clinics in the oPt. The General Assembly will encourage the Israeli government to establish affordable clinics under the premise of adhering to the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which emphasizes healthcare and disease control as a human right. In order to bring adequately trained medical professionals to the clinics in the oPt, the General Assembly will also encourage the Israeli government to institute an incentive programme which pays doctors and medical workers in higher wages should they work in the oPt. It is the responsibility of the Israeli government to pay for these healthcare programmes in order to maintain healthcare as a human right for its people. The State of Israel should be reminded that it has previously agreed to adhere to international law which includes providing sufficient medicine, vaccinations, and medical supplies to the clinics. Accessible healthcare will increase the health and welfare of the Palestinian people while increasing Israeli standing in the international community as a state respectful of the human rights.
- c. An advancement of the quality of maternal and infant care in the oPt. We advise the General Assembly to take actions to encourage Israel and the World Health Organization to fund programmes that promote healthy pregnancies and healthy infants. First, women’s health clinics should provide counseling and educational programmes and be equipped to offer emergency services. Indeed, there are 5,108 beds available in both public and private healthcare centers for almost four million people. This low figure highlights the main issue which is that only 64% of the Palestinian territory covered of maternal assistance centers. Second, the importance of adequate gynecological training should be emphasized. We recommend that nursing

schools in Palestine and Israel have a focus on maternal health and offer on-job training for professionals training to become midwives or to work in delivery and/or neonatal care. Third, Israel should be encouraged to facilitate the importation of necessary medicines and supplies for mothers during pregnancy and during nursing years. Since the establishment of the Palestinian authority in 1994, international medical providers have only reached 14% of the pregnant mothers. This underlines the lack of medicines. Finally, the General Assembly should encourage Israel to supply maternal care universally and affordably for all Palestinians; thus, making maternal care a human right and so no woman is turned away from care.

### **C. PROMOTING PALESTINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY**

65. The Committee noticed the efficiency of the Nansen Passport and the travel documents mentioned in the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees, and recall the mandate of the Committee, which includes the right to citizenship.

- a. Thus, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly advise its subsidiary body, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to develop travel documents on the same form as those precisely described in the Annex 1 of the 1951 Convention in order to give the Palestinian people the possibility to exercise their fundamental rights. These include but are not limited to education, health, and judicial and legal protection. Indeed, by granting the Palestinian People a temporary citizenship, this document will serve as a certificate of identity, which is most of the time required to access the above mentioned services.
  - i. Because of its temporary aspect, this measure would not threaten the right to return, as we recommend that as soon as a stable Palestine State is established, the Palestinian Government would remain the only authority mandated to confer Palestinian citizenship to their people, and thus all the rights related to this.
  - ii. Furthermore, it would not threaten the precarious confessional, political and demographic balance of neighboring hosting countries. Indeed, the documents would not qualify beneficiaries for political rights such as voting or being elected, and consequently would not interfere with the political life of the host country. Moreover, by granting beneficiaries with an international status as opposed to a nationality or residency, this would not permanently modify the composition of the national population in the host country.
  - iii. This document would provide an acceptable alternative for those States which have not yet recognized the State of Palestine, by virtue being delivered by an independent organ, the UNRWA.
  - iv. These documents should finally allow the Palestinian people to travel in and outside of the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly from the

## Gaza Strip to the West Bank.

- b. These documents should be considered a temporary solution, as we recall the Report of the Committee of 8 October 2012 (A/67/35), chapter I, Introduction, paragraph 3, stating that the common objective of our Committee is the achievement of a two-state solution, and the regularization of the status and rehabilitation of every Palestinian citizen in their homeland.
66. With regard to the detention of minors, the Committee sees the need for the international community to assist the Palestinian children as to not let their detention further become an arbitrary practice. The Committee recommends to the General Assembly to promote a Programme for the Assistance of Palestinian People (PAPP) to engage the NGO Addameer. To begin this collaboration Addameer should submit a report to PAPP, which estimates the annual costs of the implementation specific projects. Firstly, Addameer lawyers shall provide free legal advice and assistance to all minor detainees in East Jerusalem as soon as Addameer learns of about the arrest of the minor. Secondly, five Addameer lawyers shall annually tour East Jerusalem schools with former beneficiaries and inform the students about their rights in case of detention. Furthermore, the legal assistance PAPP and Addameer provide jointly shall be promoted and about the support the UN provides for them in cooperation with Addameer. This annual tour shall be known under the title of “Know your Rights!” After having been estimated by Addameer, the costs of these two projects should be included in the budget for the “Rule of Law/Access to Justice” project of the PAPP. Both projects should be the subject of regular, bi-annual report to PAPP. The first report is to be submitted in January 2014. This way, the Committee believes that both the present and the future civil society can be strengthened, which is a precondition for success of a stable and peaceful independent Palestinian State. Today the project supports Addameer as a civil society actor. Future civil society actors of Palestine would additionally be directly addressed by the “Know your Rights!” campaign.
67. To realize CEIRPP’s mandate on raising awareness of and solidarity with the Palestinian people, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint a CEIRPP Goodwill Ambassador. The Chairman of CEIRPP shall recommend a person willing and able to promote solidarity with the Palestinian people and draw attention to the humanitarian situation in the West Bank as well as East Jerusalem and the Gaza strip that is caused, *inter alia*, by illegal Israeli settlement activities in the oPt. The Goodwill Ambassador shall be inaugurated and take up his or her work on November 29, 2013, the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.
- a. The Ambassador shall attend all meetings under the auspices of CEIRPP to raise awareness of UN actions on Palestine. This will furthermore encourage public discourse about the humanitarian situation in the oPt and the specific topics of the respective meetings.
  - b. The Ambassador shall travel two weeks annually through the oPt and be accompanied by a professional blogger, who shall keep an up-to-date online diary about the journey

and work voluntarily.

- c. The blog will be accessible by both the UN News Center website and the personal website of the Ambassador. Thus, the Ambassador will call the attention of internet-users, who are primarily those generations that have not seen the outbreak of the conflict, to the situation in Palestine. The Committee believes that the Goodwill Ambassador in carrying out voluntary work will effectively call the attention of especially the younger generations to the question of Palestine. The Committee is convinced that the consequent efforts of these generations for peace will be essential for a long-term solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

68. The Committee shall promote a program for an initial three-year period in order to maintain, expand and develop the workshops in shelters and safe houses already existing in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). The further development of shelters and safe houses will serve the purpose and the need to inform Palestinian women about their economic, political and social rights, guiding them to find work-placement and internships, social integration, as well as improve their overall quality of life.

- a. To obtain these goals the Committee will request the General Assembly to start a joint-venture with the WCLAC and the JCW with the aim of empowerment and education of the women in Palestine through workshops to be held in said safe houses and shelters.
- b. The workshops call for a new wave of educators to work with Palestinian women living in such safe houses and shelters. A team of teachers, scholars, and women leaders would be trained and hired by the WCLAC, JCW, and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) from within Palestine and neighboring countries to organize and conduct the workshops.
- c. As a result the Palestinian women receiving the education will later become themselves trainees and advocates of said workshops. The workshops would consist of a three-hour lesson plan, two times a week for the period of three months. Within the workshops women will learn resume writing and interview skills, and strengthening self-esteem, to ease the job finding process.
- d. The funding shall be provided by the WCLAC, JCW and UN Women, and in the largest part financed by the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality.

#### **D. IMPROVING ECONOMIC AUTONOMY**

69. Considering the conclusions of the aforementioned study and UN organ reports on the Palestinian situation, this Committee recommends that more emphasis be placed on microfinance initiatives and regional cooperation as a way to free the Palestinian people from donor's dependency.

- a. The Committee therefore recommends the General Assembly to encourage UNRWA, as the largest of the ten major existing microfinance institutions (MFI) in this region, to initiate a programme to foster increased cooperation amongst them. Specifically, it recommends the implementation of a data-sharing programme under the aegis of the UN agency, to better analyze results and effectiveness of programmes that are already in place and evaluate the potential for expansion. This would further allow the UNRWA and its partners to ensure that all areas of the occupied Palestinian territories have equal access to microfinance opportunities, as well as to coordinate on future common objectives
  - i. In order to support this broadened mandate for the Office of the Microfinance and Microcredit Programme, this Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve an increase in this office's manpower, which according to UNRWA Organizational Chart currently only has one international staff member and 176 area staff. As a point of comparison, the Gaza Field Office has 14 international staff and 8,605 area staff. Additional staff would manage the implementation of the new data-sharing programme amongst the MFIs and to oversee its progression. To this purpose, the office should increase its area staff by 10% to have a total of 195 Member States, and an additional international staff member should be hired to supervise their efforts and act as the head liaison with partnering MFIs.
  - ii. The Committee also recalls that the Office of the Microfinance and Microcredit Programme created a Management Information System in 2011 to facilitate the planning, performance evaluation and management activities of the office. This system produces weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly suggest that the international staff member heading the new data-sharing program with the MFIs use this Management Information System as the source of data to be shared in the new initiative. It can also produce reports on a parallel basis, specifically providing performance evaluation and ongoing recommendations of the cooperative efforts with the MFIs.
- b. To further achieve the goal of increasing economic autonomy, the Committee suggests that the General Assembly call on regional organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Development Bank (OICDB) as well as national development agencies to increase coordination with the above-mentioned MFIs.
- c. This Committee also urges the General Assembly to strongly encourage contributing countries to honor their contribution pledges to the UNRWA so that its microfinance and other important programmes can fulfill their mandate to the fullest extent possible. The Committee brings attention to the unfortunate fact that funds received often fall short of pledges by up to 50% according to reports of the UNRWA. If these programs can reach their maximum potential by receiving all promised funding, the

need for continued donations will decrease as Palestine improves its economic capabilities and autonomy.

## **E. TAX AND CUSTOMS**

70. To balance short-term budget fluctuations due to unreliable inflow of tax revenues, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly encourage states with mutual recognition with Palestine to expedite attempts to provide a financial safety net as was initiated by the Arab League.
71. To stop the undermining of the financial situation of the Palestinian Authority, the General Assembly should propose that Israel refrain from withholding tax revenues and respect contractual obligations regarding full, timely, predictable and transparent transfer of collected tax and custom revenues.
72. The Committee shall recommend to the General Assembly that the contractual basis of the Protocol of Economic Relations should be reformed in a shared reviewing of hitherto existing agreements with the ultimate end to assign tax revenue collection authority to the Palestinian Authority.

## **F. THE ECONOMIC BLOCKADE**

73. This Committee recommends that the General Assembly work to create a stimulus programme based on the successes of the Marshall Plan to boost economic activity in the Gaza Strip through a joint initiative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This Committee requests that the General Assembly consider the following proposals in outlining the mandate and operations of a joint UNDP-OECD committee to oversee the stimulus program.
74. Both of these organizations have and do operate in Palestine already, and are therefore familiar with the specific developmental challenges to be faced. Furthermore, Israel has a strong position in the OECD as a Member State of the Executive Board, and the UNDP has been strongly invested in Palestine through its program in the oPt. By creating a joint committee to work on the economic development in Gaza, both Israel and Palestine will be confident that their best interests will be represented fairly.
  - a. The monetary capital for the stimulus would be funded principally by members of the OECD through contribution pledges based on current economic capacity, particularly European Union members who were the beneficiaries of the original Marshall Plan and who have intimate knowledge of the strategies that were used successfully. This capital would be supplemented by additional voluntary contributions from any willing nation state, economic body, or humanitarian organization and incorporated into a single fund.



- i. This capital will be used to achieve the “critical margin” that the Marshall Plan provided to European economies to meet a minimal level of investment that is vital to economic growth.
    - ii. The capital will also be used to provide long-term loans at low interest rates to finance major purchases to enable technological advancement and diversification of goods that are produced in the Gaza Strip.
  - b. The OECD and UNDP joint committee will work with Israel and the Palestinian Authority to write a new comprehensive list differentiating between what should be considered “(potentially) military” and “non-military” goods, so that fewer kinds of materials will be restricted from importation out of concern for their possible utilization by third parties.
  - c. The UNDP and OECD joint committee will provide recommendations and a practical timetable to reduce artificial trade barriers, with particular emphasis on establishing an agreement that will allow Gaza to resume exports to Israel and the West Bank. As part of this increased freedom of movement of goods, the joint committee will provide a framework for the creation of joint institutions - run by Israel and the Palestinian Authority - to manage the border economy once Palestine becomes a fully sovereign states; these institutions would have as a long-term goal the facilitation in the increased freedom of movement of people as well as goods.
- 75. This Committee further urges the General Assembly to insist that the parties involved move forward with implementation of the 2005 *Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing* - which would allow full access and freedom of movement in the Gaza Strip to Palestinians - as part of negotiations in future peace talks. As this agreement was signed before - and has been compromised by - the takeover of Gaza by Hamas, new strategies to ensure its implementation must be adapted to take into account Hamas’s role in the territory.
- 76. The UDHR states as a basic right, the right to nationality and the right to belonging, as well as the freedom of movement without impediment within one’s homeland. The lack of any established process for the migration and movement of Palestinians between the Gaza Strip and West Bank is a violation to the UDHR as this necessarily implies that Palestinians are not free to move within their own homeland. The encroachment of Israel upon this right is unacceptable, and for the proper progress of peaceful negotiations and settlements, this is a situation which must be mitigated and resolved. As such, this committee recommends the development of a neutral corridor, for the peaceful movement of Palestinians between these two regions, not subject to harassment or encroachment upon basic human rights, with the following recommendations to the General Assembly:
  - a. It is necessary that there exists a secure means of movement between Gaza and West Bank. The security of this corridor would require both Israeli and Palestinian security forces to maintain the corridor as a neutral zone. The exact numbers will be as recommended by the task group composed of Israeli and Palestinian civilian leaders.

- b. The corridor would exist as the shortest direct line distance, not cutting through major areas of settlement, between the Gaza Strip and West Bank territories. The exact location and geographical layout of the corridor is to be determined by recommendation of the joint task group of civilian leaders to the General Assembly.
- c. There is a necessity for further development of these ideas to ensure that such a corridor or safe zone of movement is reasonably maintainable in the future of this region. As such, this committee recommends that the General Assembly also commissions a group of fact finders to release regular reports on the status of this the corridor and the success of the corridor as a means of movement for Palestinians and Israelis.

77. Recognizing the necessity of establishing a method for the safe, secure, and efficient movement of peoples between Gaza Strip and West Bank as a pre-requisite to ensuring the feasibility of successful peace talks, this Committee recommends the following to the General Assembly:

- a. The establishment by the General Assembly of a joint task group of Israeli and Palestinian civil leaders which will serve to create permanent means of free individual and group movement of civilians within oPt.
- b. The agreement arrived at by this task group shall be as is amenable to both states, and must serve to create a neutral corridor for citizens or residents of both states to move freely without hindrance from either entity.
- c. This joint task group of Israeli and Palestinian civilian leaders to be established by the General Assembly to take into consideration the ideas proposed and entailed by the 2005 Rafah Agreement.

## **G. ENHANCED THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN THE PEACE PROCESS**

78. In order to achieve a peaceful long-term solution it is crucial for the General Assembly to urge a resumption in negotiations between all parties involved in the conflict and to continue the Middle East peace process based on the Madrid Terms of Reference by implementing the Quartet Road Map, the Arab Peace Initiative, and the relevant Security Council resolutions as well as existing agreements between Palestine and Israel. Furthermore, any future dialogues should take into consideration that the new status of Palestine as a non-member observer State in the United Nations has changed the dynamic of engagement in the two-state solution process.

79. By accomplishing the right of self-determination, Palestine can ultimately achieve peace with Israel. Otherwise, blocking the bid of the Palestinian for a full statehood by the Israeli government will only empower extremists. It is the opinion of the Committee that the oPt should be returned to the Palestinians and endorses the policy of land swaps to address the

issue of larger settlements. Additionally the Arab countries will fully recognize the existence of the State of Israel; consequently, the Arab-Israeli conflict will eventually be peacefully resolved by such negotiations.

80. The Committee concludes that the solution of the delicate question of Jerusalem is that the two parties should share the holy city which is sacred for both sides as has already been stated in the Resolution 181 of the General Assembly, and the Resolutions 252, 267 and 1515 of the Security Council; specifically the future Palestinian State should have to right to situate their capital in the Arab side of East Jerusalem. Likewise, the state of Israel should have the right to place situate their capital in West Jerusalem.

## **H. TRADE OBSTACLES FOR PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK**

81. Recognizing the unusual trade burdens that Palestine has due to its dependency on Israel, we recommend to the General Assembly raise with its Member States the importance of facilitating trade with Palestine, and to encourage member states to endorse measures which lower customs and duties for Palestinian products in order to bypass the disadvantages imposed by Israel that lead to the above mentioned asymmetry of economic wealth in Palestine and Israel.
82. The lack of products that are needed as a basis for the creation of added value is hindering the development of the Palestinian economy, this body recommends that the General Assembly strongly condemns Israel's import restriction on the oPt.
83. CEIRPP suggests the General Assembly to endorse the efforts of the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) in order to attempt to end the Israeli monopoly on water supply by strengthening the capacity of Palestinians to use water in agriculture more efficiently, and expand the utilization of rainwater.
84. The General Assembly is furthermore recommended to encourage and promote independent research on the links between the transnational armament industry and the perpetuation of the occupation within the UN. University research programmes that focus on peace and conflict as well as security and economy should lead this. The Universities should work together closely with the already existing Fact Finding Mission of the UNHCR.

## **I. KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY**

85. Considering the new status of the Palestine as a state, as illustrated by the delineation of Palestine as a non-member observer *state*, as opposed to its former designation as a non-member observer, the governing entity requires legitimacy and defined borders. A large part of the establishment of a stable state with governing ability is the existence of a civil society and a growing economy. Essential to this is the application of proper technology through exchange of technology and teaching of new and more appropriate techniques to current sectors.

86. To help support and ameliorate this growing issue of food security, there is the necessity for the introduction of more appropriate and regionally-suitable farming practices and technologies, as well as improved technologies for irrigation. The Committee would recommend the introduction and implementation of a program for the training of local farmers in more sustainable and land-suited practices, as well as education in irrigation techniques and the introduction of drip-irrigation technologies into the region. Improved systems for horticulture would also be introduced.
87. We also support a program of rehabilitation of the lands destroyed during the construction of the security barrier. This would allow the re-use of these lands with the purpose to produce alternative energy, such as bioenergy. Bioenergy can increase the fertility of fields by restoring degraded land and consequently making it suitable for food production or intercropping systems. The Committee considers this as a long-term solution, however. The incomes of such an exploitation of destroyed lands would actively participate in improving economic independence from foreign donors.
88. In order to direct the critical Palestinian situation towards the economic growth, the Committee recommends the General Assembly encourage the sharing of energy techniques and knowledge through all the areas of the occupied Palestinian territories. As an example, according to the UNDP, solar photovoltaic energy has already been implemented in some areas of the Gaza Strip, and constitutes a cost-effective solution for providing energy in a sustainable way. Considering that solar technology has the potential to address the current energy deficit, our committee recommends that the General Assembly encourage the sharing of knowledge on that matter through Palestinian territories.
89. Recognizing that current and future generations taking part in the peace process and negotiations will need to be tolerant internationally minded individuals, free of the prejudices of former generations, to push the peace process to a conclusion and help to maintain a lasting balance in the region, the Committee recommends the extension of these UNAOC programs to include exchange of instructors such that:
  - a. The instructors are exchanged between the Palestinian region and other states with especial focus on countries currently serving as temporary homes for refugees of Palestinian origin, including but not limited to Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon.
  - b. The instructors should focus their educational mission on strengthening the mutual understanding between different cultures and work to overcome inherent prejudices due to a history of conflict. Such would be done within the current established curriculum.
  - c. The exchange of instructors will not be limited to post secondary, but will include also primary and secondary educational institutions.
    - i. As the eventual goal is to raise generations with as little prejudice as possible, incorporating these programs into primary and secondary

institutions will allow for exchange of cross-cultural information and ideas prior to the formation of the majority of prejudices carried forwards into adulthood.

- ii. As per the current situation on the ground, such an exchange would help to foster an environment of communication and cooperation, potentially helping to promote peace talks and the creation of a less-polarized identity within the region.
- iii. Instructors exchanged will be incorporated into the current curriculum, given the same amount of free rein as per teaching practices, customs, and introduction of different ideas as wished/requested.

- d. This exchange will be in support of and in addition to extension of current bilingual education programs as mentioned, to be included within the scope of this exchange, such that, instructors participating in the exchange have the additional option of teaching within these non-conventional schooling programs.
90. There exists a necessity to increase the visibility of the Palestinian people in the international community and raise awareness using the initiatives of the UNICT through Information Technology, through bloggers, websites etc. This point will also help to establish a strong common communication medium between the Palestinians and the International community. As such, this committee suggests to the UN ICT to design and implement methods to raise broad public awareness within the international community and thereby facilitate a communication medium between the local and international community.
91. There exists a requirement for future stability and ability to maintain open systems of communication within the global network, to train and extend training sessions for the Palestinian professionals/individuals to increase their skills of journalism, with a view to raise awareness among the Palestinian people and the international community. In consideration of this, the Committee proposes the extension of training programs from the Department of Public Information for Palestinian journalists strengthening the participants' capacity as broadcast media professionals and enable them to design a multi-media website, where they will be able to post daily activity reports.
92. Developing technological knowledge is crucial to build a stable, sovereign, viable State of Palestine. Consequently, the State of Palestine will be able to keep up with important trends, create working opportunities, and strengthen economical development. Knowledge transfer programmes, such as projects of the Government of the Republic of India, are a great success.

## **J. REFORMATION OF PALESTINIAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

93. In order to build a viable Palestinian state it is necessary to reform the Palestinian legal system. This reformation is also necessary in order to assure that the population of the oPt can benefit from a just and efficient legal system. This process, however, cannot be accomplished unless peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine are initiated. In this regard, we call upon the GA to reiterate the importance of resuming peace talks.

94. The process of state building and legal reformation should be accomplished with the assistance of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the League of Arab States (Arab League) and regional players such as Egypt and Turkey. These organizations can assist the integration of Palestine into regional forums which can enhance regional cooperation and defend Palestinian sovereignty internationally. The OIC has developed considerable expertise in dealing with Human Rights in the Middle East which can prove useful in constructing a new legal code for Palestine. This expertise holds particular importance since the OIC provides an Islamic perspective on human rights, which may provide grounds for reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah, in order to achieve a unified legal system. The Arab League can play a particular role in helping Palestinians implement a legal framework. Several member states of the Arab League share similar transitional experiences as they have a common historical colonial past. Juridical advisors from different specializations in neighboring Arab countries can benefit the Palestinian Authority with their knowledge and provide support to the local legal teams and committees during the reformation process. It is important to note that the Arab League and the OIC have concluded a cooperation agreement in dealing with international and regional cooperation. The two bodies share similar perspectives and interests on “the political, informational, economic, social, cultural and scientific fields.” This would allow the two bodies to work closely in helping Palestine reform their legal system.
95. The Palestinian Basic Law should be developed so as to be the presiding legal framework over Palestinian territory. This framework should provide a predictable set of rules that can be reasonably understood by the population of the oPt. The resulting legal framework should be consistent with basic human and political rights, a task that may be ensured by close collaboration with the OIC and the Arab League. The reformation process can benefit from the jurisprudence of past presiding legal systems as a source of legitimacy for a codified juridical regime based on Palestinian Basic Law.
96. It is also important that the reformation is accompanied by a modernization of the judicial branch so that the new legal system can be efficiently enforced. By forming a stronger legal system, the Palestinian people would be more capable of governing their territory and would not be subject to Israeli civil and military jurisdiction. Israel should be required to relinquish their illegal interference over Palestinian sovereignty, including the implementation of their law over the Palestinians in the oPt.
97. In order to modernize and harmonize the Palestinian legislation, it is important to reopen “The West bank and Gaza Legal Development Project.” This project would be managed by the Project Implementation Unit and operate under the auspice of a steering committee. This committee would be composed of representatives from the Palestinian judiciary system. The financing of this project would come from the Trust Fund for Gaza and West Bank and from other donors interested in reformation of the Palestinian judicial infrastructure.

## **K. WATER ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT**

98. With the goal of generating sustainable energy and power as well as equitable distribution of water from the Jordan River in the region consisting of the states of Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, this Committee recommends that the General Assembly commissions a working group, reporting to the General Assembly, to conduct a feasibility study of building a shared dam on the Jordan River and its possible negative repercussions on the environment and economy of the region. Possible effects that have already been researched include an interruption the river's ecosystem and a political dispute between Palestinians and Israelis.
99. If the study results in a feasible conclusion, that the General Assembly create a taskforce, similar to the previous Jordan River Unified Water Plan which was negotiated by the U.S. ambassador, to develop and implement a plan for the creation of a joint hydroelectric dam on the Jordan River shared between Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine. We recommend that the General Assembly forms a Project, to be coordinated by the UNDP or UNEP as is deemed appropriate by the General Assembly, to monitor and to consider the following actions for the implementation of this Project.
100. The main objective of the project would be to designate and enforce a fair and equitable distribution of the water and the power coming from the hydroelectric dam at the Jordan River. In addition, the forum is responsible for hiring personnel and maintaining facilities for the day-to-day management of the dam.
101. Recognizing the need for the cooperative distribution of resources from the Jordan River, this committee recommends that the CCEDWPJR forum serve as a platform to promote cooperation and communication between the states mentioned above regarding concerns related to water.
102. The construction of the shared Jordan River dam will provide clean water and sustainable energy for the region as well as fostering diplomatic cooperation between Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan. In addition, the successful collaboration of these states on the dam will encourage further dialogue between these states in other areas of conflict and hopefully lead to a more peaceful region.